TASK.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The Senate Committee of Seven appointed by the Republican caucus on Tuesday, to assign the new members to their places on the committees and to redistribute as far as necessary the chairmanships, will be ready to submit the result of its labors on Monday to the caucus. It is understood that the old established custom of the Senate to put new members at the bottom of the committee lists and to promote the older members in regular order according to the length of time of their service in the Senate has in the main been followed this time. Hence it is expected that Senator Miller, of California, will be made Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations in the place of Mr. Windom, and over Senator Edmunds, who is already chairman of an important committee, that of the Judiciary. Senator Hill, of Colorado, will be entitled to be put at the head of the Committee on Post-offices and Post Roads, having been next in order to Thomas W. Ferry, who was its former chairman. On the same principle Senator Harrison would become the chairman of the Committee on Territories and Senator Hawley chairman of that on Railroads.

Some speculation exists as to whether Senator Morrill will remain at the head of the Committee on Finance or not. Senator Sherman, it is said, is anxious to be chairman of this committee, and it is possible that Sentor Morrill's services will be shown to have been more valuable clsewhere. The Committee on Pensions, too, is likely to lose its former chairman, Senator Platt, of Connecticut, who, it is understood, does not wish to serve on it any longer. The Senators will be assigned with reference to their special knowledge of different subjects and incidentally with reference to their experience in legislative work. Those who have been in the House naturally would get the preference of those whose service had been confined to filling seats in their State Legislatures. Finance or not. Senator Sherman, it is said, is anx-

whose service had been confined to fining seats their State Legislatures.

There is usually much heartburning and trouble caused by the unwillinguess of new members to take their places on minor committees, or at the tail end of important ones. They are apt to think that their abilities are not appreciated and it always requires some tact and not an inconsiderable amount of diplomacy on the part of their seniors to convince them that such is not the fact.

CAUCUS OF DEMOCRATIC SENATORS. The Democratic Senators held a caucus this morn ing, Senator Pendleton presiding, to arrange their party's membership of committees. No other subject was discussed. Some feeling was displayed in respect to the habit of older members of the Senate securing the majority of impor-tant places on committees to the exclusion of younger members. A resolution was introduced and carried to appoint a committee of seven, which shall arrange the minority member ship of the committees of the Senate for the best interests of all, and report their action at the next caucus. The committee was appointed by the chair as follows: Senators Harris, Cockrell, Garland, Butler, George, Morgan and Call.

COLONEL MORRISON BESET.

CONGRESSMEN AND PLACE-HUNTERS MAKING HIS LIFE A BURDEN.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec 6,--Colonel Morrison, of Illinois, is not so happy now as he was immediately after the nomination of Mr. Carlisle. The Illinois statesman is not only universally regarded by his

fellow-members as the power behind the Speaker's chair, but by every applicant for a place under the minor officials of the House he is considered all powerful. Of course, he is not responsible for this impression and he deprecates it, as well he may, for of all the men in Congress, not excepting the Speaker even, he is the most worried.

men in Congress, but he is in great danger now, for there is no hope that half the Democratic Congressmen will be satisfied with the committee places assigned to them or that places can be given to more than one in twenty of the office-seekers.

The few appointments thus far made by the Clerk, Doorkeeper and Postmaster show that the Solid South is to receive at least its full share. Arkansas is represented by two appointments, and Tennessee, Texas, Kentucky, Virginia, Missouri, and West Virginia by one cach. One page has been appointed from New-York, a messenger from Ohio and a cock from Pennsylvania. A disabled soldier was removed yesterday, but upon the discovery that he is a Democrat he was remetated.

TO EXTEND THE VETO POWER. BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

Washington, Dec. 6 .- Senator Lapham has prepared a joint resolution to amend the Constitution so as to permit the President to veto items in appropriation bills. In his message last year, and again in the one just presented, the President recommended the adoption of a constitutional amendment which would confer upon him constitutional amendment which would confer upon him
the power to correct an evil, the existence of
which makes itself felt more and more
every year, and which alone made the
passage of a River and Harbor bill like that of hast year
possible. But for the fact that there exists, on the part
of a large proportion of Senators and Congressmen, a disnellination to amend the Constitution in any form whatever, a measure such as that proposed by the Senator
from New-York would have passed the Senate and the
House long ago.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS QUESTION.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Several Republican Congressmen besides Colonel Mackey, of South Carolina, are ready to bring in joint resolutions proposing a civil rights amendment to the Constitution. One prepared by General Keifer provides in substance for the enforcement of the Fourteenth Amendment and reads as follows:
"Congress shall have power, by appropriate to secure to all citizens of the United States equal privileges and immunities; also the equal protection of the laws; and also against their being deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

due process of law."

It is by no means probable that this or any other resolution of the sort will ever be invorably reported by the Judiciary Committee which speaker Carlisle is to appoint, and of which the general impression seems to be that Mr. Tucker, of Virginia, will be chairman.

COMMITTEE ON RIVERS AND HARBORS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 .- The resolution offered on Tuesday by Mr. Dunn, of Arkansas, to create a committee of fifteen members to be known as the "Com mittee on Rivers and Harbors," will probably be adopted. A strong argument in its favor is that the time of the mittee is so taken up by the preparation of the River and Harbor bill every session that it is unable to give other measures the mature consideration which their importance demands. The Senate Committee on Rules has agreed to report in favor of a separate committee on Rivers and Harbors for that body, which is an additional argument for Mr. Dunn's proposition.

VISITING NEW-YORK POLITICIANS

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 .- Among the New-York politicians in town are ex-Congressman Richard Crowley and Jacob Hess. Mr. Hess said humorously that his only object in coming to town was to look after a patent in which he was interested. He was then on his way to the Waite House. Ex-Senator Thomas C. Platt was on the Senate floor resterday afternoon, and spent his time on a sofa on the Democratic side.

For other Washington News see Second Page.

A DESPERATE ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 6 .- A. C. Ayres, the local ate attempt this morning to commit suicide. He cut his wrists with broken glass, thrust a sharpened lead-penell copy into his neck, and then used a pocket-comb in an prising wigs, false faces, petticoats, flowing robes,

effort to cut his throat. This, he says, he did at 2 o'clock, and then lay in the utmost agony hoping for death. He is a young man of good family, and his friends say his mind is unbalanced. His condition is critical.

BEATEN WITH FIST AND CLUB.

A KEYPORT DENTIST ATTACKED IN THE STREET BY THE HUSBAND OF A PATIENT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] KEYPORT, N. J., Dec. 6.—Considerable ex-itement was created here this morning when Dr. O. C. logardus, a dentist, was grossly assaulted in the street by J. M. Snow, who is the proprietor of a restaurant. Last fall Dr. Bogardus did some dental work for Snow's wife, and Snow charges that when Mrs. Snow was in Bogardus's office he made improper proposals to her, which she indignantly rejected. The men met by accident on the street to-day, Snow asserts, but the fact that he had a club in his hand seems to indicate that he was looking for some one on whom to use it. The encounter is described by the witnesses as follows:

Bogardus was going down Front-st., and when near Church-st., as he was about turning to his house, Snow came up, and, in an excited manner, asked : "What did you say to my wife !" and then began to beat bim about the head and shoulders, alternating with his fist and the club. This he kept up for several minutes. As soon as Bogardus could get out of Snow's way, he told him to lay down his club, and he would meet him on even terms. This only tended to infuriate Snow the more, and he renewed the attack, saying: "I will either knock or blow your brains out," at the same time putting his hand to his hip as if to draw a pistol. By this time a large crowd had gathered, and Bogardus ran into his house, reappearing in a few minutes with a revolver, but his assailant had disappeared.

disappeared.

Dr. Bogardus was seen to-night by a Tribune reporter. His left arm was in a bandage, and he walked with a limp. He gave his version of the affair as follows: "Snow's wife made several engagements with me to have work done, but did not keep any of them. She would call the day after and say she was sorry, but could not help it. The last time she made an engagement she came rather late, and then I had another patient in the chair and could not attend to her. I remarked that time was money to me and I could not afford to have her break engagements; neither could lattend to her at the time. She then said she would pay me for my time lost and asked for the bill, which I gave her. She went out and returned in a short time and paid it. That was the last of the matter until I was coming up the street to-day, when I met her busoand and he asked me what I did to his wife last summer. Then he drew a club as large as a poheeman's and struck me first with the club and then with his fits."

The rest of the story does not differ from the account given before. Show says that Bogardus tried, not only by persuasion but by force, to accomplish his purpose. This is denied by the gardus tried, not only by persuasion but by force, to accomplish his purpose. This is denied by the deutst, as is also the charge that he made any improper proposal whatever; and he says that he has the man who was in the chair at the time Mrs. Snow was in the office to prove it by. Bogardus has been put under \$500 ball to keep the peace and await the action of the Grand Jury. Marcus B. Taylor, a prominent lawyer, has been engaged to considuct Dr. Bogardus's case. Both the men are of good character, as far as can be learned, and are well-known in this community. Dr. Bogardus was seen to-night by a TRIBUNE reporter

THE TENEMENT-HOUSE CIGAR BILL. MR. EVARTS'S AND JUDGE HAND'S ARGUMENTS UPON ITS CONSTITUTIONALITY. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, Dec. 6 .- The case of David A. Paul, involving the constitutionality of the "Tenement-house Cigar Bill," was argued in the Court of Appeals to day. It came up on an appeal by Paul from an affirmance by the General Term of the Supreme Court, 1st Department, of a Special Term order dismissing writs of habeas corpus and certiorari obtained by the appellant to inquire into the cause of his detention in prison. Paul, with his family, occupied connected rooms on one side of a middle hall-way in the fourth story of the house No. 375 East Eighth-st., New-York. This suite of rooms runs from the front to the rear of the house; the rear room, with a window opening to the air, was used as a kitchen and dining room. There were two rooms, used as sleep ing apartments, provided with windows opening on the hallway. Next was a room at the front of the house, with windows opening to the street. In this room Paul carried on his work as a etgarmaker, for which he was arrested under a claim that it was in violation of the act in ques-

Democratic members in search of chairmanships or good committee places waste hours in efforts to impress him with a conviction of their merits and deserts, while hungry Democratic patriots who want to tend doors or fold documents beset him with continual importunitiee. To no purpose does he say that the Speaker will fill the chairmanships and appoint the committees or deny that he can control the appointment of door-keepers, for neither Congressmen nor office-seekers believe him and they actually make life a burden to him. Colonel Morrison has been one of the most popular men in Congress, but he is in great danger now, for there is no hope that half the Democratic Congressmen will be satisfied with the committee places as Paul's appeal to-day was argued by William to secure equality of rights to an enterms, and assemble protection against proscription or disparagement in their persons, property, employments and the security of their homes. The bill was also in contract vention of the Federal Constitution, in that it impaired obligation of contracts, and was also unconstitutional in that it was local and embraced more than one subject, viz.: the prohibition of manufacture and a mandatory direction to sanitary inspectors is solution to reporting violations.

facture and a mandatory direction to sanitary inspectors in relation to reporting violations.

Judge Hand, in opposition, claimed that it was within the discretion of the Legislature to determine whether the manufacture of clara, etc., in tenement-houses was prejudileal to the public health, and the prohibition thereof expedient; that such a prohibition was an exercise of the state's police power no greater than the interdiction of other unwholesome trades and the control of shaughter-houses, operations offensive to the senses, the deposit of powder, the application of steam power to propel cars, building with combustible materials, and the burial of the dead. end. The importance of the case and the high standing of

the lawyers engaged drew a large number of people to the court-room during the argument.

KILLED BY A QUARRELSOME NEIGHBOR. BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Anderson, Ind., Dec. 6.-A tragedy occurred at a small station six miles west of this place last night.

John J. Johnson and Coleman Hawkins were wealthy farmers. Johnson has held the position of Station Agent and Postmaster. There was a long-standing quarrel between them over a ditch; and last night, after some talk which Johnson tried to avoid, Hawkins fired two shots at his neighbor, who, being wounded. When Hawkins overtook Johnson the latter turned and fought desperately, knocking the revolver out of his and fought desperately, knocking the revolver out of his assailant's hand. He then fell to the ground faint from loss of blood. He died this morning. He leaves a family, After picking up his weapon Ha a kins walked homeward, and there, benind a shed, shot himself, dying instantly. Hawkins had often threatened to take Johnson's life. He was a man of ungovernable temper, and when angered was almost a maniae. He had suffered with a cancer on his face, and it had affected his mind to a great extent. He leaves a wife and cleven children. His friends were very few, and by his eccentric habits he has been compelled to live an almost ascellated life. That he undoubtedly intended to do just what he did is evident from the threats he made, and the fact that two revolvers were found upon him.

ATTEMPT TO ABDUCT A WITNESS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] CHICAGO, Dec. 6-The trial of the principals in the Flemming & Merriam grain commission swindle, which has been fraught with much interest ever since its exposure, was accompanied by another sensation last night-an attempt, on the part of the accused, to abduct Charles Hyde, one of the witnesses for the Government whose evidence has been damaging to the defence. He was chief clerk or book-keeper for the firm, and being twice arrested, had been released on bail. He was seized last night by two strangers near his bome, hustled into a carriage and driven to Pinkerton's Detective office. His attorney finally prevented his being locked up in a pri-vate cell, and he subsequently made his escape.

TWELVE WOMEN TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIM.

INY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE, CINCINNATI. Dec. 6.-The village of Fair Haven, Ohlo, is aroused over a social sensation. A dispatch there, says: The Rev. J. C. Campbell is the pastor of the Hopewell United Presbyterian Church at this place. of the Hopeweit United Pressystem a furren at this place.

He came here two years ago with a wife and four daughters

He is fitty-live years of age and rather handsome. He is

tond of the society of woingn, and for various reasons he

has now been suspended find will receive a church trial

next week. A dozen women will testify as to his frequent

visits and to his unpleasant attentions.

A MATERIALIZING MEDIUM EXPOSED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] CHICAGO, Dec. 6 .- Dr. J. M. Shea, an alleged spiritualist and materializer, has been arrested, to-gether with George Mastow, his assistant, and held to

NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1883. white plumes and a bespangled girdle which his "White Prince" of Oriental fame wears when he comes from the spirit land. The court-room was scarcely able to contain the immense number of excited victims when Shea was tried. Mastow, who is the pugilistic "bouncer" of the establishment, knocked down several men and assaulted Police Officer Hubbard.

THE NORTH MADISON MURDER MYSTERY. SUSPICIONS REGARDING WHIPPER AND DOWNS-JOHNSON BURIED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] NEW-HAVEN, Dec. 6 .- The developments in the North Madison murder mystery to-day, as far as they go, increase the suspicion against Whipper and Downs. It has been ascertained that on Sunday afternoon Whip-per demanded of his boarding mistress, the cidest Miss Johnson, sufficient food to last him from that time until Tuesday. Then, according to Downs's statements to-day, Whipper went directly to the house of Downs, had a long conversation with him, and returned to his hut pefore supper. That night occurred the murder. Unquestionably Downs and Whipper were so situated that

they, better than any of their neighbors, could have committed the deed had they so desired. Downs claims that the blood on his clothes is chicken blood, and that it was on them a week ago last Monday He referred to his nearest neighbors, a family by the name of Collins, as witness to the death of the chicken. The Coilins family declare that they knew the chicken was killed, but fail to remember that any blood was spat tered on Downs's clothes. They further announced that, aithough they had seen Downs every day during last week, they failed to notice any stains of blood on his

As regards Whipper, he would have been suspected or general principles, even were not there a few links of cir general principles, even were not there a few links of cir-cumstantial evidence to bind him. He has had a bard name, and been considered capable of any crime. He has refused to explain to anybody but the coroner where he was or what he did on Sunday night. Coroner Bollman and Dr. M. C. White both visited the scene of the murder to-day, but no arrests have been made. Johnson, the victim of the murder, was buried to-day. The interment was ma plot of ground about fifty yards east of the bouse on the Johnson farm. Young Whipper was present, and carried himself with an air of defance.

THERESA STURLATA IN BALTIMORE.

SHE REPUDIATES THE PITTSBURG "INTERVIEW"-A HOST OF VISITORS.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TELEUNE.) Baltimore, Dec. 6.—Theresa Sturlata, who shot and killed Charles Stiles in Chicago, arrived at her last night from Pittsburg, her pres in the city not being known untithis morning. She was accompanied by her eldest brother, James Sturtata, who went to Pittsburg to to meet her. Her mother and brother gave her a welcome in accordance with the warmth of the Italian character. To use Theresa's own words, they "nearly smothered her in kisses." She denies that she saw any one at the hotel in Pittsburg. She says she took her meals in her room, and went closely veiled. The assertions purporting to come from her that she and other female prisoners at the State Prison at Joliet, III., were insulted by male wardens are pronounced false. She declares that while there she was most kindly treated by the matron of the prison, and never say one of the male wardens. The food and treatment of the imprisoned women was exceptionally good. She was employed making socks and could knit, by means of

uachinery, seventy-two pairs a day. She does not know yet exactly what her future move ments will be, but she will make up her mind in a few days. She has determined to lead a correct and becoming life here, and hopes that her past actions will not cause people to place obstacles in path. She is desirous of doing something for herself, and says that she will receive material assistance from ladics in Chicago. She spoke in most respectful manner of Charles Stiles, whom sh

most respectful manner of Charles Stilles, whom she confesses to have loved dearly, but says that his actions were so terribly cruel that he drove her really crazy, and she knows she was not responsible for her actions when she snot him. She puts all the blame of Stilles's transgressions on his Chicago companions, saying it was the celebrated Owl Club of that city which ruined bum. She was particularly pleused with her success in getting the best of the Chicago reporters, and says that when she went to the homes of the ladies who had befriended her in that city she was so diaguised that even hem en who knew her best failed to recognize her. Her home this morning was the scene of a regular reception, her old friends and companions coming from near and far to welcome her back. "Never," said she, "was I ever so glad to get home before."

ROBBING THEATRICAL COMPANIES.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TEREDE. CHICAGO, Dec. 6.—The theft of a gold watch, lets and diamond car drops from the trunk of Grand Opera House, has resulted in the arrest of Moses Valentine, alias "Hawkeye," and Oscar Ross, alias "Horsecar," supernumeraries at the theatre, and John Bishop, of Collender's billiard saloon. The jewels were stolen while Mrs. Morrell was on the stage in "Girofa-Girofa." Eishop neted as a fence for the young thieves, and in his room sixteen watches and some jewelry and other property stolen from the airbeal companies and valued at \$3,000 were found.

IN AN UNEXPLAINED PLIGHT.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. DAYTON, Ohio, Dec. 6 .- Two young men were found near the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad track, near the city to-day, dying from a number of lone, deep gashes in their heads. Both were injured in almost exactly the same manner, and both were unable to explain their situation. The wounds were unquestion ably indicted with a sharp-edged tool of some kind. The police believe an attempt had been made to murder them, police believe an attempt and been made to marrier takin, and that they were dragged to the railroad track to deceive the officers of the law. The injured men are now lying at the hospital. Letters were found in their pockets showing their names to be William Van Law and Charles Harris. The affair is shrouded in mystery.

A BOLD ROBBERY IN MONTANA.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] BUTTE CITY, Montana, Dec. 6 .- Before the espension of business last evening three men entered the grocery store of Hamilton & Co., and with six-shooters compelled W. G. Pfours, the managing partner, to open the safe, from which they abstracted \$1,200. A clerk was present, but he, too, was intimitated. Three suspi-tions looking characters were arrested at Spring Hill to-day. Should the evidence warrant it, they may be hanged

TYPHOID FEVER IN CONNECTICUT.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) FORESTVILLE, Dec. 6 .- Typhoid fever is raging to an alarming extent in this town, and several aths from the disease have occurred during the past w days. The disease is becoming epidemic, and the blic schools have been closed.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

SALE OF AN AMERICAN BARK.
ALTIMORE, Dec. 6.—The American bark Yamoy,
engaged in insitimore and Rio Janeiro trade, belonging to
catale of the late Thomas Whitridge, was soid at another

10-4ay for \$10,200.

DAMAGES TO THE CRANBERRY CROP.

POSTON, Dec. 6.—The ravages of the cranberry
"fire blight," or vine worm, and the berry worm, amounted to
from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in this State during the year. SUING A SYRACUSE NEWSPAPER FOR LIBEL.
SYRACUSE, Dec. 6.—Albert B. French has brought
mit against The Syracuse Revald for libel in alleging that
french had lost money at a gambling house. Mr. French
laims \$10,000 damages.

Charas \$10,000 damages.

ROOT AND SHOE TRADE OF CINCINNATI.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 6.—The Board of Arbitration of
the boot and shoe trade closed its session to-day, having
niopted the present schedule of wages, which is to remain in
force till June 20, 1884.

force fill June 20, 1884.

THE WORLD'S EXPOSITION AT NEW-ORLEANS.

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 6,—The design prepared by
G. M. Jorgenson of Meridian, Miss, for the main building of
the World's Cotton Exposition has been adopted. The building will have 1,000, 30s square feet of floor space, including a
music hall in the centre, with seats for 12,000 persons. It
will be the largest exposition building ever erected, except
the one in London in 1662.

A MANUFCATURING COMPANY CHARTERED.
HARDISUURG, Penn., Dec. 6,—A charter was railed to-day to the Standard Manufacturing, Company of ittsburg, with a capital of \$200,000.

A BUFFUL ATTACKED. A BRITISH STEAMER AFOAT AGAIN.

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. G.—The British steamer Rachia, for Bremen, which ran ashore in the South Pass on the wing dam above the jettles, was to day pulled of after lightering half of her cargo.

ing half of her cargo.

A SIX MONTHS YACHTING CRUISE.

BOSTON, Dec. 6, — The keel schooner yacht Gitana.
Caytain Sherlock, William F. Wed, fr., owner, salled to-day
for Bermuda. She will go thence to Madeira, Gibraitar, the
coast of Spa.n., the South of France, Italy, Sielly and Aigriera,
and Tangiers in Africa, the Canary Islands and Trinidad, and
will be absent about six months.

CHARGED WITH COTTON FRAUDS.
GALVESTON, Dec. 6.—A dispatch to The News from
Dalias says additional addavits against Lohnstein, alleged to
be guilty of large frauds in cotton, have been sworn out daily
since his arrest. NEW BASEBALL GROUNDS AT CINCINNAT LICENCINNATI, Dec. 6,—The Cincinnati Baseball Club succeeded to-day in leasing new grounds for five years They are almost hair a mile nearer the centre of the city than the old grounds.

THE EASTERN WAR CLOUD.

RUMORS OF AN ACTUAL OUTBREAK. LONDON, Dec. 6.—This afternoon's St. James's Gazet'e, in its financial article, said that an unconfirmed report on the Stock Exchange that war between France and China had been declared caused excitement and a general decline in prices. Nothing was known at the Foreign Office or at the Chinese Embassy, however, of the reported outbreak.

THE MOVEMENTS OF FORCES.

Paris, Dec. 6 .- Admiral Peyron, Minister of Marine, has received a telegram from Admiral Courbet, commanding the French forces in Tonquin, dated Ha-Noi, November 27, stating that the attack on Sontay has not yet begun, and that he is still preparing his force for the Hong Kong, Dec. 6 .- Advices from Tien Tsin, the port

of Pekin, state that the Government of China refuses to withdraw or modify its claims in regard to Tonquin, and that she prefers war to the surrender of the province to France. Large bodies of troops are continually passing Hong Kong en route to the Tonquin border. LONDON, Dec. 6 .- La France of Paris states that Admiral Peyron has telegraphed to the Prefects of the Maritime Departments that since a fresh dispatch of

troops for Tonquin is not expected, it will not be neces sary for them to continue any steps begun with ship-owners for the employment of transports. But a Paris dispatch declares that the above statement is not confirmed, and is considered improbable.

THE PROGRESS OF ARBITRATION.

Paris, Dec. 6 .- La Liberte says that England is taking energetic steps—to bring about a treaty between France and China. It adds that it has authorized information which leads to the belief that peaceful negotiation have made great progress during the last few days. probable, La Liberle states, that the event which the Goverament expects as likely to exercise a great influence upon the impending debates in the Chamber of Deputies

is not so much a feat of arms in Tonquin as China's adhesion to the bases of a treaty which have been suggested by England.

The Telegraphe says that Marquis Tseng, the Chinese Ambassaelor, sent a note yesterday to Prime Minister Ferry asking a suspension of fighting in Tonquin, in order to prevent a conflict which might compromise the pending negotiations between France and China.

A LEGISLATIVE PALACE BURNED. THE BELGIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ADJOURNED

IN HASTE-SEVERAL SOLDIERS KILLED. Brussels, Dec. 6.-A destructive fire broke

at this afternoon in the legislative palace. This fine struc ture, with a Doric facade, stands in the park in the east em part of the city, opposite the Royal palace. It was originally built for the Council of Brabant. Adjoining it are the buildings of the Home, Finance, and Foreign De pertments. When the fire had once secured headway, it presented the appearance of one vast sheet of flame. The Chamber of Deputies was first attacked, and was entirely destroyed. The Senate Chamber escaped. The offices of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Public Instruction were slightly dumaged. So great was the peril to this and belo extinguish the fire.

It is believed that the fire originated in the cupola of the Chamber of Deputies, where there was a sun-burner, used for lighting the house. The flames, fanned by a draft from the ventilating-shaft, spread rapidly, and were greatly helped by a strong northeast wind. The Deputies were in session at the time the fire broke out, and hasally actiourned. Several thronen have been hipperd, and it is reported that some gremadiers have been killed by failing walls.

THE CONSTANTINOPLE FIRE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 6 .- A fire in the Haskicui quarter of this city, which broke out yesterday, was subdued last night, after raging eight hours. The fire destroyed 600 houses, a Greek church and four Jewish synagogues. A snow storm was prevailing at the time of the fire, which added greatly to the sufferings of the people rendered homeless by the conflagration. The Government is relieving distress.

SOCIALIST CONSPIRATORS ON TRIAL. PLOT TO BLOW UP AN EMBASSY AND MAKE

MONEY. LONDON, Dec. 6 .- At the Bow Street Police Court this morning William Wolff, the Socialist, and the Frenchman Boudurand were brought up, charged under the Explosives act with having in their possession explosive substances for an unlawful purpose. They were arrested November 22, two infernal machines being found

at Wolf's house in Vincent square.

Major Majendie, Inspector of Explosives, deposed that the machines, if used, would have caused a dangerous ex-

they were making plans for a much more terrible explosion than that which occurred at the Praced Street Station of the Underground Railway, and that at least thors; whereupon Kalborn remarked that the undertaking would be a dangerous one. They reundertaking would be a dangerous one. They replied, "But we have the police with us." Wolff stated to him that himself, the two Bondurands, a police officer and a Polish Jew were in the conspiracy. Wolff and the two Bondurands would take the machines and a pot of petroleum to the German Embassy in a cab. Wolff and the policeman would then watch, while the others lighted the fuse, Wolff at the same time throwing a letter written in red ink upon the spot where the explosion was to take place. Kalbean was to place some paper and red ink, the same as used in the letter, in the house of a German. The explosion having occurred, the policeman would arrest the German. Kalbean was to receive \$100 of the reward which the conspirators expected to receive. Wolff told Kalbean to Induce the German to walk near the German Embassy at the time the explosion was to occur. "The more people there were killed," said Wolf to Kalbean "the better, as the reward will be higher."

higher."
Kalborn, upon cross-examination, said he was a deserter from the German Army, and that Wolff was one of the greatest secundrels living.
The hearing was then adjourned until to-morrow.

ELECTION METHODS IN GERMANY. Berlin, Dec. 6 .- It is stated that Prince tismarck intends to introduce in the Reichstag a bill modifying the system of elections for members of that body. Under the present law a majority of the entire number of votes cast is requisite to secure an election.

The plan which it is proposed to substitute for this requires that a successful candidate must have only a plurality of the votes.

In the Lower House of the Prussian Diet to day the motion to introduce secret valles, at elections for members

tion to introduce secret voting at elections for me of that body was rejected by a vote of 202 to 163. QUARREL BETWEEN EMINENT ITALIANS. Rome, Dec. 6,-Signor Nicotera, formerly Minister of the Interior, to-day accosted Signer Levite, Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior, in the lobby of the Chamber and grossiy insulted him, declaring that he would like to spit in his face. Several Deputies interfered

and separated the men. Signor Lovito subsequently sent a challenge to Signor Nicotera to fight a duel. The latter a challenge to Signor Neotera to fight a disc. The latter accepted the challenge and appointed his seconds. The trouble arose from the fact that a certain native of Calabria, who had written a pamphlet insulting Signor Nicotera, obtained employment under the Government. Signor Nicotera's action is generally censured, especially because it has hitherto been regarded as probable that he would again become Minister of the Interior. IRISH AFFAIRS.

LIMERICK, Dec. 6 .- At a meeting of the Cor-

poration of Limerick last evening a resolution was adopted to confer the freedom of the city upon the Hon. Charles Dawson, M. P., the retiring Lord-Mayor of Dub-lin, and formerly High Sheriff of County Limerick. The passage of the resolution led to a row among the mem-bers, some of them calling others rowdies. Considerable excitement ensued and order was restored with diffi-DUBLIN, Dec. 6.—The Pope has sent a congratulatory

letter to Cardinal McCabe, commending his pastoral let-ter, which was read in the Catholic Churches of his diocese on Sunday last denunciatory of secret societies.
In the Court of Assizes to-day Robert Elliott was indicted for the murder of Mrs. Smythe, in April, 1882; also thirteen others for conspiracy to murder, at the same time she was killed, Mr. Smythe, a brother-in-law of the deceased lady. The cases were put over for trial on Mon-

LONDON, Dec. 6.-The Press Association says the woman who accompanied O'Donnell to the Cape of Good Hope when Carey was murdered, sailed to-day on the steamer termanic from Liverpool for New-York with a well-dressed man. They took cabin passage.

COMMERCIAL TREATIES PROPOSED. Madrid, Dec. 6 .- It is asserted that Spain has made a provisional treaty of commerce with England, but the official papers do not confirm the report. Meanwhile several newspapers urge the Government to take advantage of the favorable disposition of public opinion to conclude commercial treatics with England and the United States.

LONDON, Dec. 6 .- The Spanish Government will pro pose in the Cortes that Great Britain shall receive the most favored nation treatment. The British Government —11 propose in Parliament to extend the shilling duty on

wine to that of thirty degrees proof, thereby removing the grievances of both nations. This arrangement, if made, is to remain in force pending the conclusion of a definitive treaty of commerce, the negotiations for which will be commenced shortly.

EL MAHDI NOT ADVANCING.

CAIRO, Dec. 6.-The panie at Khartoum, caused by the defeat of the Egyptians and the reports of the approach of El Mahdi's forces, is subsiding. It is not now believed that El Mahdi contemplates making an early advance from El Obeid.

TOPICS IN THE DOMINION. MONTREAL, Dec. 6 .- A sensation was creat-

ed here to-day by the announcement in the morning papers of the sudden disappearance from the city of George W. Craig, secretary and treasurer of the Montreal Loan and Mortgage Company. The report, however, turned out to be untrue. OTTAWA, Dec. 6.—Judge Miller, Attorney-General

of Manitoba, arrived here to-day to consult the Govern-ment in relation to the boundary award and other mat-ters in Manitoba.

TORONTO, Dec. 6.—Some mischievous boys last evening placed a fog-signal on the street railway track near the corner of McCaul and College sts. A wheel of an approaching car passed over it, causing it to explode with great violence. The shock threw the car from the rails, damaged some of the underworks and disabled the car. The three or four passengers on board were badly shaken up, but no serious damage was done to anyone.

FOREIGN NOTES. LONDON, Dec. 6 .- Moody and Sankey opened their services at Stepney to-day, in the iron building in which their meetings were conducted at Islington. LONDON, Dec. 6 .- Frederic Clay, the composer, is suf-

fering from an attack of paralysis.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—The Prince of Wales has been reelected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Freemase of England.

Paris, Dec. 6 .- The arrest has been ordered of the perons who signed the Anarchist placards, posted in the disorderly parts of the city yesterday, calling the working-men to meet in front of the Bourse on Friday. Seven of the signers have already been taken. Glasgow, Dec. 6.—The crisis in the ship-building trade

on the Clyde is growing intense. Three large firms, in-cluding the Messrs, Denny, have told their employes that their wages will be reduced in January, and several other firms will do likewise.

LONDON, Dec. 6 .- The case of the Central News against the Press Association for libel has been begun. The alleged libel was contained in a letter of the manager of the Press Association to one of the customers of the Cen-tral News, denying that the latter received any telegram in regard to the fire in a circus at Berditchev, Russia.

A STORY OF A SEA-SERPENT.

Washington, Dec. 6.-Captain W. L. Green, keeper of the life-saving station at Long Branch, N. J., reports to the General Superintendent of the Service, under date of November 24, that five of his crew, who were fishing in the ocean a few days before, saw a hideous sca-serpent a short distance from their boats. According to the story asnort distance from their boats. According to the story told by the erew, "the scrpent was fully 90 or 100 feet long and 30 feet wide; and we did not see his entire length." They also say that "there were two blow-holes about 9 feet long and 2 feet wide, about 20 feet from the end of his nose. The body was black, the head short, and near the nose were two stubby horns."
Capitali Green adds that the scrpent was also seen from the station, making its appearance on the surface at intervals of ten minutes. He closed his report with the remark that "this is the truth."

THE LACONIA MURDERER TROUBLED. LACONIA, N. H., Dec. 6 .- Samon, the murerer, was given a hearing before Judge Jewett to-day. He appeared nervous and troubled. In answer to the question, "Samon, are you guilty or not guilty i" he replied, "Guilty, sir." His case will be tried in March. He said his confession was true in every respect and that he was ready to suffer the penalty for his crime. It is thought the weight on his mind will completely break him down and cause death before March. He care very little, but complains of nothing. There are no chances for a plea of insanity to be entered in his defence.

ACQUITTED OF ABETTING GAMBLERS.

Sr. Louis, Dec. 6 .- Judge Noonan directed the jury to-day, in the case of Joseph H. McIntire, State Coal Inspector, E. Butler, and Police Commissioners David W. Caruth and Frank J. Lutz, for conspiring to obstruct the proper administration of justice and to control police affairs, to acquit the defendants. They were indicted by the late Grand Jury on testimony taken dur-ing the recent investigation into the police and gambling scandals, and have been on trial for over a week past.

A CONTESTED INSURANCE CLAIM.

NEW-HAVEN, Dec. 6 .- In the Supreme Court Edward Malley against the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company of California. This was one of several suits brought by Malley to recover \$150,000 insurance for damages by the burning of his dry-goods store in Febru-ary, 1882. The plaintiff was defeated in the Superfor Court, and now asis that the suit be removed to the United States District Court. Decision was reserved.

DAMAGE BY FLOOD IN A TEXAS CITY.

GALVESTON, Dec. 6. A dispatch to The News from Dallas says a rainstorm last night partially flooded that city. The post office building was rendered unsafe, being damaged to the extent of \$5,000. A sewer was washed away, causing a loss of \$8,000. Harris's stationery store was damaged to the extent of \$2,000. He will sue the city. The Heruld's stock of white paper was slightly injured. The streams are swellen, and trains are from six to eight hours late.

TROUBLE OVER A DELAWARE CITY OFFICE .

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 6.-The Republican nembers of the City Council to-night re-elected David H. Coyle as Chief Engineer of the Water Department. The Democratic members refrained from voting, because they hold that the office has been legally filled by the Water Commission. The validity of the Water Commission act will be adjudicated by the Court of Errors and Appeals, the highest State tribunal, next mouth.

SUSPENSION OF COAL MINING.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6 .- A notice was issued to the coal operators of Schuylkill County to-day announcing that the anthracite coal interests have agreed to a stoppage of coal mining on December 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 26, and requesting that the mining, hoisting preparation and loading of coal during these days be entirely discontinued.

AN ELECTION CASE ABANDONED.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 6.-In the United States Court to-day the election case of Horsey was abandoned after one-half of the witnesses for the prosecution had been examined, District-Attorney Melton and Mr. Speer both acknowledging that there was nothing in the case. Judge Hond directed a verdict of not guilty.

TROUBLE BETWEEN ADVERTISING AGENTS.

New-Haven, Dec. 6 .- Decision was reserved to-day in the Supreme Court of Errors in the case of H. P. Hubbard, of New Haven, against G. P. Rowell, of New-York, for an alleged breach of contract for the publica-tion of certain advertisements. The plaintiff claims \$2,500 damages.

A KINDERGARTEN IN NEW-HAVEN.

NEW-HAVEN, Dec. 6 .- Miss Brooks, of Springfield, Mass., who has so successfully conducted kindergartens in that city, will immediately after the holidays organize and conduct a free kindergarten here. The Rev. Robert Collyer has been engaged by the City Teachers' Lecture Committee to deliver his lecture "From the Anvil to the Pulpit," in aid of the movement. FISHING VESSELS SUPPOSED TO BE LOST.

GLOUCESTER, Mass., Dec. 6,-Three more of the missing fishing vessels have been given up for lost. They are the schooner Sultan, with a crew of fourteen

men; the Maud F. Leighton, twelve men; and the Ruth Grover, with twelve men. The schooner Rutherford B. Hayes has been absent for six weeks, and great auxiety is felt for her safety. Three others are also overdue. CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

ACCIDENT TO MILL MACHINERY.

BOSTON, Dec. 6.—The breaking of a pulley in the Monataquot Mill at South Braintree to-day caused the fall of the heavy shafting, and the bursting of the fly-wheel, fragments of which did damage to the extent of \$5,000. Ments of which did damage to the extent of \$5,000.

A POLITICIAN KILLED IN A MINE,
SCRANTON, Penn., Dec. 6.—Thomas Lynn, a prominent local Democratic politician, was instantly killed yester-day afternoon by the fall of the roof in the Coal Brook Mine at Carbondale.

Carbondale.

EATAL SHOOTING BY AN OFFICER.

DANVILLE, Va., Dec. 6.—The negro Green Miller, who was shot on Tuesday by Policoman Williams, while resisting arrest, died this morning. Williams has been held for the Grand Jury.

HEAVY SENTENCES FOR ARSON.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6.—Thomas Rafferty and Join Buchanan were to-day sentences to seven years and six months each for setting fire to a warehouse in the northern section of the city.

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment had a lively meeting in the Mayor's office yesterday. A request was read from the Board of Charities and Correction for a transfer of \$20,870 from the unexpended balances of appropriations for the out-door poor for the years 1880, 1881 and 1882, to the appropriation for supplies for this year. The Street Cleaning Department asked for a transfer of \$15,000 from the appropriation for 1881 to that for 1883.

PRICE THREE CENTS.

WRATH IN THE CITY HALL.

PRESIDENT REILLY'S RUFFLED DIGNITY.

STINGING WORDS IN THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE-

THE MAYOR'S FRANK ADMISSION.

President Asten, of the Tax Department, said: "I shall oppose these transfers on the same grounds that I have opposed others made from unexpended balances of previous years. The practice, in my opinion, is illegal

Alderman Rellly-The Department of Charities needs the money and ought to have it. If it don't get it, then the 12,000 persons under the charge of that department will have to go without their customary Christmas dinner, and how would you like that, Mr. Asten !

No reply was made, but Commissioner Porter ex-plained why the transfer was asked. He said the Board of Estimate did not appropriate all the money asked for by the Charity Department for supplies, and that was the reason it wanted the transfer. The money was needed

"Suppose you do not get the transfer, what then "

"Then the Department will have to stop," replied Mr. "That is a most extraordinary statement for the head of any department to make to this Board," said Mr. Asten. "It is, in effect, stating that we must give you

what money you request or the business of your department will stop." "Right here," spoke up Alderman Rellly, sharply, "I

would like to have the clerk read the following paper.' The clerk read an article printed in The TRIBUNE on November 18 in regard to transferring unexpended balances. In this President Asten was quoted as saying that the practice was illegal; that eminent counsel had given him an opinion to that effect, and that it was merely increasing the city debt in a manner not contemplated by law. A statement was made, though not as coming from Mr. Asten, that the reason why the Park Board asked for a transfer was because it had made places for certain poli-ticians on the strength of a representation from a promi-nent member of Tammany Hall that he would secure the necessary increase of appropriation by having a transfer made from the unexpended balances of former years.

MR. RELLLY IN A RAGE. "As I am the only prominent member of Tammany Hall in this Board," said Mr. Reilly, in a deflant manner, "I suppose that statement refers to me, If it does refer to me, whoever made it stated a falshood," and saying this the Alderman glared at Mr. Asten.

President Asten-I will explain-Alderman Reilly-I don't want any explanation. 1 want a direct answer, yes or no. My character in this community is as high if not higher than yours, Mr. Asten.

community is as high if not higher than yours, Mr. Asten.
I am President of the Board of Aldermen. I was elected
by the people. I was not appointed a member of this
Board as you were.

Mayor Edson rapped for order, as there was confusion
in the room, several persons having gathered about the
table, apparently expecting that Mr. Reilly would make a
personal attack on Mr. Asten. But quiet was restored.
Mr. Asten then arose and said:
"I submit, Mr. Mayor, that the language used by the
President of the Board of Aldermen is unfair and uncalled for. I have always opposed these transfers and
I shall continue to do so. All the Presidents of the Board
of Aldermen that ever lived cannot deter me from doing
my duty."

Alderman Reilly jumped up and cried out: "You
are a big man Mr. Asten, but you can't get up a fighs
here."

The Mayor again rapped for order and the two presi-

THE MAYOR again respect for order and the two presidents took their seats. The Mayor then remarked:

"Mr. Asten, you have been asked a question which you have not yet answered."

Mr. Asten said: "I indorse every word in THE TRIBUNE article on the subject of unexpended balances. In the deed, I will go a great deal further than anything said in that article. I will answer Mr. Reilly or anybody else any question in regard to it. But I did not make a personal allusion to any member of this Board, and Mr. Reilly ought to know it."

THE MAYOR ON THE MUNICIPAL SYSTEM. The Mayor proceeded to explain his position on the

abject of unexpended balances, saying: subject of unexpended balances, saying:

Before I became Mayor I thought that the City Government could be administered on business principles. I tried to carry out that view after fly election but I found that it could not be done under existing laws. The statutes have to be obeyed, whether they are good or bad, and they stand in the way of a business-like administration. Now, in regard to the question of transferring to the use of a department head this year the unexpended balances of former years. Before voting on that question I consulted. department acea this year the unexpended assame as former years. Before voting on that question I consulted the Corporation Counsel. He said that we had the power to make such transfers. I did not think it necessary to go beyond his verbal opinion. I have now got his written opinion to the same effect, which I will submit to the Board. The principle of making such transfers is both good and had. It is impossible for any man or set of men to know in advance just exactly what money may be needed for a department.

THE UNCOLLECTED TAXES. A statement was read from the Controller showing that there are uncollected taxes to the amount of about \$16,000,000. Of that sum about \$11,000,000 are for personal taxes, which it is admitted can never be collected. That leaves \$5,000,000

can never be collected. That leaves \$5,000,000 in uncollected taxes which are good. The unexpended balances amounted to less than \$4,000,000, Hence, if all the unexpended balances were used, it would only require the temporary issue of revenue bonds that could be taken up when the taxes are collected.

Mr. Asten said that the statement was not a full one. There were \$5,000,000 in tax-relief bonds that were lessed as an offset to the uncollected taxes, as contemplated by law—taken in connection with the \$11,000,000 of worthless taxes—it would be seen that there would be a large deficiency. To talk of unexpended balances under such circumstances was absurd.

Deputy-Controller Storrs said that it was not necessary for the fax-relief bonds to be paid from the uncollected taxes. Mr. Asten replied that there was no other provision Mr. Asten replied that there was no other provisions made for the payment of those bonds. They were issued as an offset to the uncollected taxes and should be paid in that way. In reply to the Mayor's statement that a department head could not be expected to tell in advance what money he required for his department, Mr. Asten said that they nilways erred on the safe side, which was one reason why there was such a large so-called fund of next medical halances.

one reason why there was such a large so-called fund of unexpended balances.

"The law requires a concurrent vote of this Board to make an appropriation," said Mr. Asten, "but a majority of the Board makes a transfer of an unexpended balance, which is only another way of increasing an appropriation and analogying the law. This practice has been carried further tals year than ever before. It is demoralizing the City Government. Months ago a gentleman connected with the Park Department told me that the force there had been increased, and that the appropriation for salaries would be exhausted on November I. Later one of the Commissioners told me the same thing, and sure enough the appropriation was exhausted and this Board was asked to make a transfer. What is the use of this Board shifing here to agree upon appropriations if the departments do not respect our conclustions if the departments do not respect our conclustions if

THE PARK DEPARTMENT A DISGRACE. "It goes without saying," said the Mayor, "that the Park Department has been a disgrace to the city. I do not say that any of the present Commissioners are re-

not say that any of the present Commissioners are responsible, as the management of that department has materially improved this year."

Mr. Asten sain that, so far as the opinion of the Corporation Counsel was concerned, he would like to remark that other eminent lawyers had informed him that the law did not authorize transfers from unexpended balances of former years. This opinion, after quoting the provisions of the law, says: "The provisions of these carlier laws, above quoted, and all embraced in the Consolidation Act, and may be found in sections 204 and 207, with the addition in the last section of the words. After allowing sufficient to satisfy all chains payable therefrom, as a qualification of the last grant of power. In my opinion they confer apon the Board of Estimate and Apportionment the power to make such transfers as are referred to my our communication, except that unexpended balances of appropriations made in former years may not be transferred for use during the current year when balances of appropriations made in former years may not be transferred for use during the current year when they have been already disposed of by transfer to the general fund in the manner indicated in section 207." The requests made for transfers yesterday were referred to the Controller without action.

PENNSYLVANIA LABOR TROUBLES.

DOUGLASSVILLE, Dec. 6 .- The Italians employed by the contractors on the new Pennsylvania Schuylkili Valley Raiiroad at this place have struck on account of a reduction of 25 cents per day in their wages. The contractors propose to supply the places of the strikers with Hungarians. Trouble is feared, but the Sheriff holds himself in readiness to send a posse to Douglassville at any time that a disturbance should

printers who were in the employ of Thomas Potter, Sons insisted upon their signing an agreement to withdraw from the membership of trades unions, to-day returned to the works and signed the promise exacted by the firm, and it is thought the men on strike at the other works will return to work by Monday. AN EXTRA SESSION ENDED.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6.—The majority of the off-cloth

HARRISBURG, Penn., Dec. 6 .- The Legislature adjourned size die at noon to-day. Most of the members have turned into the Treasury \$110 each—the amount of their pay for the eleven-day recess taken at the beginning of the session.